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Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting
Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 22 Number 3 *March 2005*

Open Forums To Share Conversation

An Invitation

The Northwest Washington Synod Council will host three open forums for all in the synod to share conversation related to the Report and Recommendations from the Task Force for ELCA Sexuality Studies.

In attendance to hear your ideas and concerns will be members of the Synod Council, members of the Reference and Counsel Committee for the 2005 Synod Assembly and voting members of the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The three dates and locations are as follows:

- ⇨ Saturday, March 12, 2005; 9 – 11 a.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 1700 Edmonds Avenue NE, Renton.
- ⇨ Sunday, March 13, 2005; 3 – 5 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 2015 East Blackburn Road, Mount Vernon.
- ⇨ Monday, March 14, 2005; 7 – 9 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 14514 20th Avenue NE, Shoreline.

For additional information, please contact Sharon Greenwood at 206-283-5546 or greenwood@lutheransnw.org. Or, you can visit www.lutheransnw.org and click on Journey Together Faithfully. A newsletter/bulletin insert is available for your convenience.

See related story on page 10

In This Issue–Highlights

Page 2 ..... Synod Assembly Information
Page 3 ..... A Word from the Bishop
Page 4 ..... Synod Council Update
Page 5 ..... Report of the Synod Treasurer
Page 6 - 10 ..... Events and Other Information
Page 11 ..... News and Notes
Page 12-13 ..... Within Our Family
Page 14 ..... Youth Update/Job Openings
Page 15 ..... Synod Transisitons/Mobility

Synod Assembly Update

The Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will be held on Friday, May 20, and Saturday, May 21, at the Everett Events Center.

Dr. Patricia O'Connell Killen, professor of religion at Pacific Lutheran University, will be our keynote speaker on Friday, May 20. She is the co-author of *Religion and Public Life in the Pacific Northwest—The None Zone.*

The Rev. Stanley Olson, Executive Director, Division for Ministry, will be the churchwide representative for our 2005 synod assembly.

Information is now available on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org. Click on News and Info. The 2004 Synod Assembly page includes links to registration forms, keynote speaker information, agenda, resolution and nomination forms, and key dates. More information will be added to the site as it becomes available. So, check back often.

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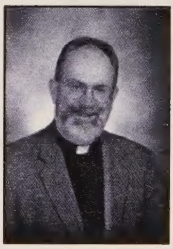
Deadline for the April 2005 issue of Soundings and The Spirit is Monday, February 28. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; margit@lutheransnw.org; 425-299-6667; fax 360-435-5955.

Permission is granted for congregations to copy Soundings and The Spirit. Newsletters are available to download at www.lutheransnw.org.

A Word From The Bishop

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."
1 Corinthians 12:4-7 NRSV



The Reverend Chris Boerger

We need your help. The infrastructure of our Synod committees, task forces and groups has been less than effective for a number of years. This has resulted in frustration on the part of those trying to serve and in those looking for assistance in a variety of areas. The Synod Council and Vice President, Sharon Greenwood, are addressing these problems.

One change is that asking people to serve and nominating names to the council will now be placed in the Bishop's office. Obviously, we will have to approach this in a focused way. It has been proposed that we begin with the Candidacy Committee. That committee is working with a significant number of candidates for ministry both ordained, associates in ministry and diaconal ministers. We are looking for non-ordained persons who could meet monthly with candidates and maintain contact with specific candidates during their preparation for service.

It is also critical that we expand the Board of Outreach and Evangelism. There is movement toward dividing this Board into a group that will work on Outreach, new congregations and transformational congregations, and a group that will help all of us in our evangelism to this mission field. These functions require people, ordained and non-ordained, who have a missionary zeal for sharing the word of hope which we know in Jesus.

The Stewardship team has come together to help us in the areas of personal stewardship of God's gifts and to help is in the mission support for the larger church. The last statistics I have seen show that ELCA members share on average 1.97 percent of their income with their congregation. The Biblical starting point of the tithe is not even remotely on our radar. This team will help us respond to God's grace and promise.

We will move beyond these groups in the months to come. I have asked the Cluster Deans to help raise up people to serve in these ministries. You do not have to wait for the Deans to ask. If you want to work in any of these areas or if you have names to suggest, please contact the Synod Office.

By the time you receive this, the deadline for filing the parochial report and the 2005 statements of intent will have passed. We have not been regular in our paperwork, but both of these forms do serve the ministry of the synod and the churchwide expressions of the church. If these have not been filed yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Synod Council Update

by Sharon Greenwood, Vice President

206-283-5546
sharon5546@comcast.net

The Synod Council met on January 29 at the Shalom Center, home of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Western Washington University in Bellingham. Students and Pastor Chris Berry gave us a warm welcome. Business conducted by the Council included:

- Appointed Claudia LaFollette, Burlington in Burlington, chair and Rev. Lisa Dahlen, Crown in Seattle, to the Nominating Committee.
- Appointed Rev. Victor Langford, St Mark's, Seattle, as an alternate voting member to the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
- Accepted the resignation of Holly Johnson, AIM, from the Synod Council and declared the Associate in Ministry position vacant.
- Established staff compensation for 2005 totaling $334,380.
- Authorized expenditures totaling $1,450,000 for 2005, which is $100,000 less than the budget of $1,550,000 approved by the 2004 Synod Assembly. The major differences are in the 45% churchwide share ($45,000), compensation ($20,000), and boards and committees ($27,000), administration ($8,000).
- Authorized reimbursement to staff for the use of personally owned automobiles while attending to Synod business and the sale of the two Synod owned automobiles.
- Gave consent to the Synod Global Mission Committee to direct fundraising appeals to congregations and individual members of this Synod for the benefit of Haik Orphanage of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus - Northern Synod.
- Established the lay voting membership for the 2005 Synod Assembly at 285, to be determined as follows: Every congregation shall have at least two voting members; congregations with baptized membership exceeding 450 shall have three voting members; and congregations with baptized membership exceeding 1,250 shall have four voting members.
- Designated the recipients of the 2005 Synod Assembly offering to be Maritime Ministry of the Northwest Washington Synod and Haik Orphanage of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus - Northern Synod.
- Appointed Dave Finstad, Central in Everett, Ushers Committee chair for the 2005 Synod Assembly.
- Approved two new rules for inclusion in the Standing Rules, which will be proposed to the 2005 Synod Assembly, as follows:

  Rule 19. Privilege of voice granted to interns—Any intern who is currently serving a congregation in this synod may have the privilege of voice, but not vote, at the Synod Assembly provided they

continued on page 5

Report of the Synod Treasurer

By Richard Bridges, Treasurer

206-728-5627
richardb@millionairclub.org

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act – it is a habit." Aristotle

The fiscal year endeth. Well done, ye good and faithful servants.

The congregations of this synod survived the *Peter pays Paul* syndrome relatively well and the Synod itself ended up only 4% short of budget; the number being $1.41 million. That is the best we have ever done. The above referenced syndrome refers indirectly to the tsunami The fact I have seen repeated at least a thousand times, literally, is that a large ratio of folks do not increase their giving budget when a disaster happens. They simply re-designate dollars from one part of giving to the other.

Which caused a person I know to ask me—upon hearing of this theory—why then are so many churches named after Paul so poor? [giggle]

Synod spending equaled revenue—well, we were a thousand short of actually covering everything—which means the budget was 4% under-spent. However, all of the partnership allocations were covered.

Synod Council has set the spending authorization for this new fiscal year at $100,000 less than the "spending guidelines", AKA budget, that was approved by the 2004 Assembly. This is based on our projections/hope of receiving $1.45 million.

Remember that I am at your service; the demands of my "day job" notwithstanding. Email works best and you can find that link at the Synod website and also to the right of this article.

Until next time, remember this from J. K. Rowling: "It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

continued from page 4

Synod Council Update

have properly registered to have voice.

Rule 20. Courtesy—Members shall address only the chair, or address each other through the chair. Members should refer to speakers by title or some other designation, and should avoid mentioning names, if possible. A speaker's motives should not be called into question. (Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 10th edition, pg. 22).

For additional information or to offer input to the Synod Council, please contact any member of the council. You may find contact information for council members at www.lutheransnw.org/about/council.asp. The next Synod Council meeting will take place on Saturday, March 19 at Crown in Seattle.

State Advocate's Corner

by The Rev. Paul Benz

206-464-4133
pbenz@lcsnw.org
www.lppowa.org

It will be Lent when you read this and I pray that our daily witness in the world will be nurtured and deepened during this time. One way to deepen your witness in the world is through advocacy. Our witness in the world should always reflect *love of neighbor.* Advocacy in the ELCA takes us to the decision making arenas particularly the state legislature. The hands and heart of advocacy are to be busy communicating with your three state legislators and the Governor. The most important message you can convey during this year's session (which is now in week eight with only seven more to go) is:

I/we support an increase in revenue so that the $1.8 billion dollar state budget deficit is not balanced entirely on the backs of the poor and vulnerable.

The legislature's most important decision will be how to balance this year's budget. They have three ways to do that: (1) Cuts, (2) raise revenue, or (3) a combination of cuts and an increase of taxes.

The ELCA's social statement on Economic Life (www.elca.org/dcs) states the following on the issue taxation: "Paying taxes is an appropriate expression of our stewardship in society rather than something to be avoided, and the ELCA calls for correction of regressive tax systems, so that people are taxed progressively in relation to their ability to pay".

I urge you, on behalf of those without work, without childcare or health care, without access to a quality education, and for those without an affordable and healthy place to live, to pass the above message on by email, letter or calling the state legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000. The hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please visit our website www.lppowa.org for further information. We now have the ELCA's Cap Wiz user friendly advocacy technology up on the web site.

Other critical issues we urge your support are:

- School Breakfast Funding Increase of $1.9 million.
- Woman, Infant, and Children/Farmer Market Nutrition Program and Seniors comes to an increase of $1.5 million.
- Housing Trust Fund increase up to $100 million.
- HB 1441 *Cover All Kids* Health Care plan for low-income and immigrant kids.
- General Assistance-Unemployable funding increase of $100 billion.

You are always encouraged to come and join me in Olympia for a day to help be God's advocate for justice. To receive our email alerts write to pbenz@lcnw.org. I am currently seeking congregational Sunday advocacy teach and preach visits in March, April and May.

Ecumenical Collaboration Continues

by Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda, University Lutheran, Seattle

On Saturday, January 22, 65 leaders from seven churches in the University District of Seattle met at University Lutheran Church. They met in order to review the data that had been compiled during the past year by a Stewardship Task Force of these congregations.

The data included information about membership statistics, worship attendance, programs, staff, revenue, expenditures, property values, floor plans, space allocations, facility use, etc.

At the end of the session, the question was asked, "With each congregation being stretched to make ends meet, how do we make use of our abundance of property and facilities in order to be better stewards of our corporate possession?"

The next day, a few members from each of the participating congregations in the U District paid a visit to another congregation for worship as part of a coordinated member exchange. Following worship, everyone gathered at University Christian Church for a potluck in order to reflect upon their worship experience and discuss what might be the next steps in terms of our corporate cooperation.

The possibilities are endless, and the Spirit is moving among the churches in the U District to determine what our corporate witness as the body of Christ will be in this community.

Lutheran-Mennonite Point Parish

by Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda, University Lutheran, Seattle

Responding to the recommendation by the ELCA/Mennonite Church USA Liaison Committee to establish pilot sites of contact and cooperation between a Lutheran congregation and a Mennonite congregation, University Lutheran Church (ULC) and the Seattle Mennonite Church have formally begun this process.

The ULC Council adopted a resolution to enter into a formal relationship with the Seattle Mennonite Church as a pilot site for exploring how they might give witness to the unity of Christ in this community.

The first step chosen in this process involved an educational exchange. Representatives from each congregation were present at the adult class of the other church in order to reflect upon the hostilities of the past and explore the theological differences of the past and present as well as identify the places of theological agreement. These conversations will open-up possibilities for other shared experiences of worship, fellowship and service.

Celebrate Strong Women

Celebrate Strong Women will be presented by the Lutheran Women's Caucus beginning at 9 a.m., on Saturday, March 5, at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 911 Stewart Street, Seattle.

Speaker will be Linda Lawrence Hunt, director of the Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship, former Associate Professor of English at Whitworth College. Her book, "Bold Spirit," is the award-winning story of Helga Estby, a Victorian woman who trekked 3500 miles across the United States in 1896 to rescue her farm, only to face rejection by her own family and community.

Singer/songwriter Linda Allen, who teaches classes, retreats and workshops, will present her music reflecting people's lives, dreams, and hopes. She often bases her work on Northwest images and history.

Lutheran Women's Caucus is a Christian feminist organization which works for full partnership of women and men in the life of the church, and seeks cooperation with similar organizations.

For information, call Sally Wing at 425-747-5924 or email at drswing@webtv.net.

Baptismal Investment

When a child is baptized at your congregation's font, do you want to connect the child to the life of the church, connect the entire family to the mission of the church, support the family as it plans for the young person's future and teach the young person and family the joy of faithful financial stewardship?

If you answered *yes*, then your congregation will want to become a MissionFuture4KIDZ congregation. In these congregations, each baptized child receives as a gift from the congregation a MissionFuture4KIDZ investment (minimum $50) in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Going forward, the account's custodian, usually a parent, guardian or other adult, is responsible for the investment. Additions to principal of at least $50 can be made at any time by friends and family members to celebrate Christmas, birthdays, graduations and other milestones, in a child's life. The investment earns interest as the family saves for the child's future.

The Mission Investment Fund uses the invested monies to provide low-interest loans to new mission congregations for purchases of land and construction of initial church buildings, and loans to established ELCA congregations for relocation, expansion, and renovation projects.

To learn more about MissionFuture4KIDZ investment contact Margie P. Fiedler, Area Representative, at 208-664-7973 or email margiefiedler@aol.com. Or visit www.elca.org/mif.

Eighth Annual Men's Retreat

Bethlehem in Marysville will again host a weekend men's gathering February 26-27 at The Hawthorne Inn in Arlington.

Gathering under the theme *Under Construction* the eighth annual two-day event will include Bishop Chris Boerger as the Bible Study Leader, Pastor Paul Shoup from Lutheran Counseling Network, Kevin Berg from *Move On Ministries*, as well as members of the Bethlehem staff.

A returning favorite will be music provided by The Sons of Thunder, a contemporary Christian men's music team, led by Tom Frodsham. Registration deadline is January 27. (A free Family Night Program on Friday, Feb. 25, with Kevin Berg and The Sons of Thunder.)

Call 360-659-2022 for more information and registration for the February 26-27 event.

Run The Race: Keep The Faith

Lutheran Men in Mission's National Gathering will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, from July 22-24. The theme for this year's gathering is *Run the Race: Keep the Faith.*

Give the "rat race" a rest and run the race that counts. Be encouraged by inspirational speakers. Get equipped for life and ministry with enlightening workshop leaders. The worship and fellowship will draw you into a deeper relationship with God. Visit www.elca.org/lmm for more informaiton. In 2002, over 600 men gathered in San Antonio, Texas, with less than ten from our own Northwest Washington Synod. Consider sending a delegation this time around. The men of the South Carolina Synod have been preparing for three years for us to all come down there.

Women of the ELCA To Gather in San Antonio

The Women of the ELCA Sixth Triennial Gathering will take place from July 5 through 10 in San Antonio, Texas. Registration opens on February 1. Visit www.womenoftheelca.org and click on *Act Boldly* for information about the event. Spread the word among the women in your congregation that the information they've been waiting for is now on the web.

Act Boldly, the theme for the 2005–2008 triennium, not only embraces a core element of the Women of the ELCA mission statement adopted at the 2002 convention, but also directs us toward our next step as we move out from *Listen, God Is Calling*: Now that we have spent time listening to and for God's call, we are encouraged to do—with conviction and with boldness—what we have been called to do.

Legislative Process

Report and Recommendations from Task Force of the ELCA Studies on Sexuality

On January 13, 2005, the ELCA Studies on Sexuality Task Force publicly released its report and recommendations related to blessing committed same-sex unions and ordaining, consecrating or commissioning persons in such committed relationships onto the roster of the ELCA. (The report and background information may be found on the Synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org. Click on Faithful Journey.)

Individuals and congregations of this synod may respond to the report by communicating with the NWWA Synod Council prior to its next meeting on March 19. Synod Councils are invited to express their opinions through memorials to the ELCA Church Council prior to its meeting April 8-11. The Church Council will determine the recommended action to be placed on the agenda for the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, which will meet August 8-14 in Orlando, Florida.

The NWWA Synod Assembly, which will meet May 20-21, may discuss and act upon resolutions that address the report and recommendations. Such resolutions must be submitted to the Synod Office by noon on May 9. Actions of the Synod Assembly may direct that such resolutions be forwarded to the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Important dates:

- March 19, 2005—NWWA Synod Council meets
- April 8-11, 2005—ELCA Church Council meets
- May 20-21, 2005—NWWA Synod Assembly
- August 8-14, 2005—ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Update

ELCA Board of Pensions

The Synod's local regional representative is

The Rev. Lowell Knutson
8003 Sandpoint Way NE,
B-23; Seattle, WA 98115

206-528-7422
email knutsonls@jps.net

- Thinking About Taxes? The ELCA Board of Pensions has resources to help you:
  - Pastors can find helpful information in our Clergy taxes and housing section at www.elcabop.org/benefit_plans/taxes_housing.
  - Copies of the 2004 Minister's Guide for Income Tax will soon be mailed to active, on leave from call and retired pastors with an active account. Copies are also available by contacting the Board of Pensions at www.elcabop.org/contact_us.
  - Church administrators and treasurers have resources available at www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/administrators (tax reporting).
- Reminder for ELCA Employers—Whenever there is a change in a member's salary or housing equity contribution, a new Contribution Agreement form needs to be completed. The form is available to download at www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/downloads (select Retirement plan).

News and Notes

- In early February **Rev. Jane Prestbye, pastor of Kent** in Kent, was in California at the ELCA Youth Ministry Network annual gathering. While there she received the "Tom Hunstad Award" for faithful service in the field of Youth and Family Ministry. Prior to serving at Kent Lutheran, Pastor Jane served 25 years in professional ministry with a focus towards children, youth and families. She helped create and organize the ELCA Youth Ministry Network along with Tom Hunstad and others across the country.
- *Davey and Goliath Happy Easter* will be broadcast at 12:30 p.m. eastern and pacific times on Easter Sunday, March 27, on the Hallmark Channel.
- *Glory to God Alone: The Life of J. S. Bach* will be broadcast at noon eastern and pacific times on Palm Sunday, March 20, on the Hallmark Channel. *Glory to God Alone: The Life of J. S. Bach* is an expansion of a 2002 Mosaic television production. More details at www.elca.org/co/mosaic/winter02.html. You can also order the Mosaic version of this production on DVD.
- On February 13 the ELCA's radio ministry introduced its audience to its new name, ***Grace Matters,*** and welcomed a new host, the **Rev. Peter W. Marty** on February 13. *Grace Matters* replaces *Lutheran Vespers*, the name of for the ELCA's radio ministry since its inception in 1947. The format of the radio ministry also changed. Marty is senior pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa. He will continue in that role while hosting *Grace Matters*. For more information, visit www.elca.org/lv/.
- On Sunday, May 1, the **Lutheran Public Policy Office** will be holding their Second Annual Fundraiser and Celebration. The event will be held at University Christian Church in Seattle. More details to follow.
- **Pastor Howard Fosser of Grace Lutheran Church in Port Townsend** is seeking a complete set of the 55 volume American Edition of Luther's Works. These will be a gift to a Serbian Lutheran Seminarian who has completed his basic theological studies in Bratislava and is doing graduate work in Tubingen. Pastor Fosser met Zdenko Sirka during his sabbatical tour of Luther sites in Germany. If you have a set available please call Pastor Fosser at 360-385-1595. He will arrange to pick them up and ship them to Germany.
- On the ELCA website there is a **prayer network** as well as a support page for our military. Visit www.elca.org/prayer, and the military support page can be found at www.elca.org/peaceandwar/personnel.html.

Within Our Family

To Keep In Our Prayers...

† Congratulations to Diaconal Minister **Jennifer Vasquez, Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor,** on the birth of her daughter, Rebekah Esperanza. Rebekah was born on January 24. She weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz.

† The family of **Rev. Dennis Anderson, Bethany in Seattle,** whose mother, Nellie Anderson, passed away on January 14 at home, attended by her four children. A funeral Eucharist was held on January 20 at Peace Lutheran Church, Grass Valley, CA. Pastor Richard O. Johnson presided. The Anderson family is most grateful for the prayers and many kindnesses of synod pastors and staff.

† **Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.)** fell and broke his hip and he had to have surgery. He is now recovering. Cards can be sent to: Norse Home; 5311 Phinney Ave N; Seattle, WA 98103.

† **Rev. Chuck Davis,** Counseling Associates in Edmonds, has been hospitalized with complications of pneumonia following surgery. Cards can be sent to: 18227 NE 176th St; Woodinville, WA 98072.

† **Rick Friedhoff,** Executive Director, Compass Center in Seattle, had surgery for prostate cancer on February 15.

† The family of **Rev. Eileen Hanson, St Stephen in Shoreline.** Pastor Hanson's father passed away. He lived in Portland, Oregon.

† The family of **Rev. Pam Russell, Prince of Peace in Shoreline, and Gary Sievert.** Gary's mother had a brain aneurism and underwent surgery. She is recovering.

† **The family of Hazel Hillerman**, widow of Rev. Herbert G. Hillerman (LCA). Hazel passed away on January 25. A memorial service was held at University Lutheran in Seattle. Cards can be sent to: Janice Helgeson; 21044 98th S; Kent, WA 98031.

† **Rev. Jerry Buss, Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor,** has completed his radiation treatments and is currently on sabbatical. Cards can be sent to Oak Harbor Lutheran Church; 1253 NW Second Ave; Oak Harbor, WA 98277.

† **Rev. Brian Beistel, Luther Memorial in Seattle**, thanks you for the many cards, calls, and expressions of prayer support over the last several weeks. He is slowly returning to a work schedule. Cards may be sent to his home address: 14017 15th Ave. N. E. #202K; Seattle, WA 98125.

† **Rev. Ben Bretheim (ret.)** who was recovering from back surgery has sustained additional stress fractures and will have surgery again in

continued on page 13

continued from page 12

Within Our Family

February. His wife, Hildur, reports he is in a great deal of pain. Please keep both Ben and Hildur in your prayers. Cards may be sent to: 9105 Fortuna Drive, #8211; Mercer Island, WA 98040.

† **Rev. Donna Reilly Williams** is continuing to recover from ankle surgery.

† **Rev. Robert Moylan (ret.)** as he continues to deal with progressive muscular dystrophy.

† **Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.)** as he continues to learn to do new things.

† At the regular **Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting,** we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for all those affected by the South Asia Tsunami and for the relief workers as they assess damage and assist victims. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in our companion synods in Ethiopia and Russia as they continually grow in their faith while struggling to survive. May they find peace, love and happpinesss through knowing the grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God. We pray for the pastors, churches and members of the Southwestern Texas Synod, as we are partnered with them by Churchwide. We pray for the people of Iraq, Afghanistan and for all people experiencing concern. We pray for peace.

Within Our Family depends upon you—not only for prayers, but also for your prayer requests. Contact the synod office with any additions or changes to this column at office@lutheransnw.org or 206-783-9292, toll free 1-800-244-6997.

In The Region 1 Resource Center

Faithful and Wise – Being a Good Steward

Ask most Christians what the word "Stewardship" means to them and you will most likely get answers that center around giving money to the church. But in reality, money is just one of the gifts God has given to us to use to His glory. To be faithful and wise means to acknowledge that God owns all things. As stewards we are called to take care of what is His. *Faithful and Wise* looks at how we can expand our giving into every facet of our lives:

Each lesson contains Scripture-based questions and a quote for discussion from presenter, Mark Vincent. Topics include: our possessions, our time, our talents and skills, our physical environment, our spiritual environment and our money.

The presentation is 45 minutes in length. Ask for V-1374 when you call. This resource will also be available in DVD format.

Video Resources

In The Resource Center

To reserve videos, contact Region 1 at 206-624-0093, ext. 100

Youth

WSYG (Western States Youth Gathering)—Just a quick reminder to let you know that there are still spaces available for the 2005 Western States Youth Gathering that will take place July 6-10 in Seattle. For additional information please check out the web site at www.wsyg.com.

Holden Youth Weekends are May 7-9; 14-16; 21-23; 27-29; and 29-31. Registration opened February 1. For registration forms, please visit www.elcaregion1.org/jaep. Questions? Contact: Jessica McKee, Co-Coordinator, jessica@messiahvancouver.org 360/574-7081. Emily Isensee, Co-Coordinator, memicansee@comcast.net 360/574-9029.

Souper Bowl of Caring—Remember to report your dollars raised by visiting www.souperbowl.org. Souper Bowl of Caring is a national effort aimed at raising millions of dollars for hunger-fighting organizations across the country. In one day of reporting, totals for 2005 were $1,799,476 from 5,370 organizations .

The SALLT (Service and Learning Leadership Training) Project will train over 100 young adults, 100 high school students and 70 adult youth leaders during the next two years. Funded by a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, SALLT is a partnership between Trinity Lutheran College; Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center; Lutheran Community Services Northwest; Northwest Washington Synod Youth Ministries of the ELCA; campus ministries at PLU, UW and WWU; and the Lutheran Public Policy office of Washington. Participants will be trained to be "service mentors" for 2,500 high school youth at the Servant Day during the Western States Youth Gathering on July 8, 2005. Interested youth or adults are encouraged to contact Dave Ellingson at ellingson@tlc.edu or 425-961-5541 for additional information and an application.

Employment Opportunities

Church Receptionist/ Office Assistant

Full-time position available for Church Receptionist and Office Assistant at First Lutheran Church in beautiful downtown Bothell. A wonderful, growing congregation with many active volunteers, and a cheerfully busy office. If you're looking for a great place to use your varied office, phone, and computer skills, consider sending your resume` to Rev. Marillyn Schultz Rothermel at 10207 NE 183rd St. Bothell, WA 98011 or Fax it to 425-489-2047. Questions may be directed to her at 425-486-2314 ext 102.

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.

Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Anniversaries		
Gethsemane	Seattle, 125th Anniversary	
Central	Everett, Centennial	12/2004
Retirements		
Lowell Stordahl		10/1/2004
Deaths		
Rev. Alan Hoagland		12/5/2004

Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current Pastor, Interim Pastor, or Supply Pastor
Bellevue, Cross of Christ	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht
Bellingham, Our Saviour's	PR	TR	James Miley, Interim
Burien, Glendale	PR	I	Douglas Stensby, Interim
Camano, Camano	PR	TR	Chris Anderson, Interim
Edmonds, St. Matthew	PR	TR	Dennis Schaffert, Interim
Everett, Faith	PR	TR	Interim pending
Everett, Our Savior's	A	TR	David Parks, Pastor
Mountlake Terrace, Bethesda	PR	TR	Steve Nelson, Interim
Renton, Cross & Crown	PR	I	Kate Schlecter, Interim
Seattle, St. Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Gary Larson, Interim
Trinity, Point Roberts	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northwest Washington Synod
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Soundings
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